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FOREWORD

The pages that follow detail the activities of a small, dedicated group from civil society, who struggle to fulfill the promise made by our forefathers who brought us political independence. The ancient city of Hyderabad, unique in its social and cultural heritage of the Deccan, was born out of the love of a Muslim prince for his Hindu wife. Since that civic origin, this city flourished over the last four hundred years under Sunni rule, Shia aristocracy, Sufi spirituality, Kayasth and Brahmin administration, all set at the very geographical center of over a dozen venerated Hindu *kshetras* of pilgrimage.

The vibrant life of this culture exemplified the unified economic strength of our communities, which even in the last chaotic days of Moghul rule continued to sell its famous textiles around the world, produced by the incomparable skill of Hindus and Muslims. The unfortunate social stresses, and their grave consequences, produced by colonial rule and the rifts of political partition, have till recently remained below the horizon of popular debate amongst our peoples. The violence unleashed by continued neglect of poor communities, illiteracy, lack of gainful employment, or effective political voice, all fuelled by sectarianism, extremism, and narrow-minded religiosity, have awoken civil society to contest development issues with decision makers. COVA plays its part in working unceasingly for communal harmony through empowerment of poor, and disadvantaged, communities of all religious denominations.

Starting from its work in the Old City of Hyderabad, COVA has been led by civic demand to help develop larger and larger state-wide and national networks. COVA has even been one of the first organizations in the sub-continent to respond with immediate volunteer help and resources to aid earthquake victims in the far districts of Kashmir, and our Director works as a peace emissary within yards of the Line of Control. One day soon, we may even be able to reach out our help across the border to our brethren, whose family histories are inextricably linked with ours.

But what COVA has done, or can do, is only a very small civic beginning to recover our spiritual and cultural heritage in its entirety. The peoples of the sub-continent of Hindustan are known as tolerant peoples. But much more than tolerance is needed to repair the neglected destruction of community links. We must recover once again an active cultural appreciation of the daily enrichment of our lives by the close interaction of many different, rich traditions of life, woven together by Muslim fingers, polished as gems by Jain hands, sung in praise of God by Sufi and Vaishnavite saints, told as stories derived from the ancient Pali, or recent Dalit experience. The loss of even one tribal tradition will diminish everyone of us.

We have just celebrated the birthday of the Prince of Peace. May His Sermon continue to ring in our hearts: 'Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.'

Vithal Rajan
Chair, Governing Body, COVA



AT A GLANCE

ROSHAN VIKAS	
No of groups registered	193
Members of Roshan Vikas	4030
Paid-up share capital	Rs. 3,80,950
Surplus generated	Rs. 1,66,604
Loans disbursed	Rs. 42,49,515
Thrift Deposits	Rs. 15,15,049



DISTRICT NETWORK	
Total programs organized	8708
Total number of SHGs formed	864
Participants in summer camps	3490



YOUTH TRAC	
Turn out at summer camps	3000
Play for Peace sessions held	840
Participants in Bal Mela	400
Participants in Sambandh-04	600

Theatre Festivals, Joint celebration of festivals, career counseling lectures, Raksha Bandhan celebrations attracted sizeable crowds.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM	
Participants in Cricket for Peace	5000
Participants in Project Traffic Commandoes	700
Participants in Hyderabad 10K Run	750
Participants in literary events on malnutrition	500
Member Schools	90

Other programs like Environmental Run, Rakshabandhan celebration, Workshop for teachers on disaster management, Joint celebration of Eid Milap, Talent search exam and sixth annual Low-Cost Science Exhibition drew a good number of students.



MAHILA SANATKAR	
Total sales	Rs. 5,93,581
Grant-in-Aid	Rs 4,20,000
Program Grant	Rs 4,96,933
Profit earned	Rs 24,520

Having a total of 90 workers and 8 production centers, Mahila Sanatkar came out with trendy designs and exhibited them at expos held at home (Dehradun, Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad,) and abroad (Rome).



PEACE INITIATIVES

Riot Prevention Programs

Service during Ganesh Nimajjan Procession

The volunteers of COVA offered their services, like in the previous years, during Ganesh Nimajjan, in the old city of Hyderabad, in which about 5-6 lakh people participate. In the past there were incidents of violence during these celebrations. The volunteers are stationed in large numbers especially in sensitive spots to prevent any untoward incidents.

During the Ganesh *nimajjan* in September 2004, COVA, students' unions, other civil society organisations and committed individuals mobilized 300 volunteers to maintain peace and ensure smooth passage of the procession.

The volunteers, working in close collaboration with the Hyderabad City Police also served water to the processionists at five points along the route in the old city of Hyderabad during the Ganesh immersion procession.

Volunteers near Mecca Masjid

On many occasions during the year, tension prevailed due to apprehension of trouble and violence near Mecca Masjid after Friday prayers when nearly 5000 people congregate. Volunteers were stationed to ensure calm near the mosque to prevent any trouble just as in 2002. The city police seek collaboration and volunteers from COVA during such times.

Communal Harmony Programs

Joint Celebration of Festivals

Family Visits: Joint Celebration of Festivals has become institutionalized and ritualistic. To revive the essential spirit, COVA has facilitated the participation of entire families of its team members in the celebration of festivals by members of the other communities. Many children got an opportunity to participate in such celebrations in a family context for the first time.

Ganesh Chaturthi Programs

Youth TRAC organised plays and awareness talks as part of Ganesh Chaturthi programs. During these programs, Mr Javed Akhtar, noted lyricist, poet and writer, and other distinguished personalities of Hyderabad addressed the devotees at Ganesh *mandaps* emphasizing the need for peaceful coexistence of different communities. Koshish Theatre Group performed plays on the issues of violence and need for peace at many *mandaps* in the old city of Hyderabad.

Raksha Bandhan

COVA-Youth TRAC and Children's Department of COVA brought together youth and children of different communities to celebrate Raksha Bandhan on 31st August 2004 as part of Joint Celebration of Festivals to promote harmony and peaceful coexistence among different communities in Hyderabad. In all, 200 youth and children participated in joint celebration of Raksha Bandhan and Eid.

Cricket for Peace

COVA mobilized about 5000 students from its member schools who watched the Cricket for Peace, a cricket match between the students of India and Pakistan held in Hyderabad.

Sambandh 2004

Sambandh-2004, the inter-school and inter-collegiate competitions, was organised at Jawahar Bal Bhavan (Hyderabad) from 6th to 8th August 2004 to commemorate nuclear holocaust at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. About 400 students from schools and colleges across the city participated in the competitions. It was inaugurated by Admiral L. Ramdas (former Chief of Indian Navy).

Theatre Festival for Social Sensibility



As part of Sambandh 2004, SENSITIVE events, COVA event management division, organized a 3-day Theatre

Festival for Social Sensibility. Pierrot's Troupe (New Delhi) staged 2 plays, Einstein and Tumko Chahoon... at 5 venues in Hyderabad, as part of the Festival. Mr. Praful Bidwai, a noted journalist, spoke on "Social Costs of Nuclear Arsenals" at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Auditorium and other venues, including St Ann's College for Women, University of Hyderabad, City College, and St Francis College for Women. More than 3000 people watched these plays.

Visit of Prof. Pervez Hoodbhoy

Youth TRAC, in collaboration with PIPFPD A.P. Chapter and supported by APCOST, organized lectures and interactive sessions by Prof. Pervez Hoodbhoy, renowned Pakistani nuclear scientist and peace activist, for the students of three colleges. Prof.

Hoodbhoy was on a three-day visit to Hyderabad on an invitation from Government of India, Department of Science & Technology. About 350 students participated in the lecture-cum-interactive sessions with Prof. Pervez Hoodbhoy.

Peace March from Delhi to Multan

COVA participated in the first historical Delhi-Multan peace march that began at Delhi on 23rd March 2005 (Bhagat Singh's Martyrdom Day) and concluded at Multan on 11th May 2005 (the day India conducted nuclear tests at Pokhran).

Celebrating Tenth Anniversary of PIPFPD Representatives of COVA and PIPFPD (Pakistan India Peoples' Forum for Peace and Democracy) Andhra Pradesh chapter participated in the 10th Anniversary Celebrations of PIPFPD held at Lahore, Pakistan on 4th and 5th September 2004. Irfan Basha from COVA presented a research paper on this occasion on the "Socio-economic Status of Muslims in India" at the meeting of the Joint Committee of Minorities of the Forum.

Anti-War Assembly

Anti-War Assemblies have been set up in many countries and regions and have been a vital part of the collective effort at globalising resistance to imperialism. COVA took active role in collaboration with other civil society organisations, unions and social activists in organising "Anti-War Assembly" in Hyderabad from 17th to 19th December, 2004. Leading anti-war activists from across India as well as from other countries like Palestine, Iraq, USA, Japan, Israel, Egypt, UK, Philippines, South Africa, France, Italy, Sri Lanka and Pakistan participated in this Assembly.

For details of other peace programs, please see the section on Youth TRAC



PUCAAR



People's Union for Community Action and Rights (PUCAAR) emerged in February 2004 during the process of releasing a People's Manifesto of the Citizens of the Old City of Hyderabad. PUCAAR was formed as a rights-based group to campaign on and represent their issues, and as a manifestation of the rights-based approach that COVA has been gradually adopting for some time.

Soon after the Manifesto release, PUCAAR conducted programs on the eve of the General Elections 2004 to echo the demands of the old city of Hyderabad residents. Besides voter awareness programs, PUCAAR collaborating with Lok Satta organized Open Forums to facilitate interaction between the electorate and the contesting candidates.



Campaign on Educational Rights

PUCAAR surveyed 337 Government Primary Schools in June-July 2004 in 6 mandals of the old city of Hyderabad to identify shortcomings in schools with regard to basic facilities.

On the basis of the survey results, PUCAAR launched a signature campaign in bastis and public places that elicited 25,000 signatures. PUCAAR submitted a memorandum of demands and the survey results to the Minister for School Education and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh along with the signatures.

The Chief Minister immediately responded and directed the district administration to act in the matter. The District Collector advised PUCAAR to conduct another survey in 391 schools in collaboration with different Government departments. This survey also corroborated the findings of the survey conducted by PUCAAR earlier.

Responding to the survey findings, the District Collector directed the departments concerned to immediately make an estimate



of the expenditure on the repair and renovation works at the schools. Subsequently an amount of Rs. 5 crores was sanctioned.

Formation of Basti Committees

During 2004-2005, PUCAAR Basti Committees were formed in 8 localities of all the six mandals of the old city. PUCAAR team conducted 250 basti meetings to elicit local civic issues from the communities and to facilitate representations on those issues through the Basti Committees.

An ad hoc Central Committee was formed with representatives of the six Mandals, lawyers, teachers, journalists and social activists. Formation of Mandal-level and more Basti-level Committees is underway.

Training on Advocacy

The ad hoc Committee Members and volunteers of PUCAAR underwent training on Constitutional Rights and Advocacy through 10 one-day capsules of NCAS Pune.

On our invitation, NCAS, Pune initiated a program called the Community Learning Movement (CLM) with the basti committees of PUCAAR, for the first time in an urban area.

One training session was conducted under this program so far, in which 40 basti committee members of PUCAAR participated.

Measure for Measure

The PUCAAR basti committee of Riyasatnagar participated in the first CLM training program. Chotibi, a member of the committee, along with other members has been observing a malpractice occurring in the local ration shop.

The ration cardholders are entitled to 13 liters of kerosene and 25 kilos of rice. The shopkeeper, however, underweighed the commodity. Customers were charged for 13 liters of kerosene, but were sold only 10 liters. Taking advantage of the illiteracy and ignorance of the residents, the shopkeeper claimed that they were entitled to only 15 kilos of rice.

Chotibi and other members confronted the shopkeeper on this issue. From their knowledge they argued that the kerosene measured only 10 liters and that they were entitled for 25 kilos of rice. The shopkeeper ultimately succumbed and is now measuring and distributing the right quantities.





CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

"We are participating in a science exhibition for the first time. This exhibition has given us a chance to meet other students and learn new things while making the models", said Syeda Taha and Ayesha Siddiqa, both students of National Open School Centre, Hafez Baba Nagar. They had long back dropped out from a regular school and have recently enrolled in Open School to study X standard.



It was quite a poignant experience when little Sai Subhash and Hemanth, differently abled boys, from the Child Guidance Centre, Ramanthapur, explained to the visitors about an indigenous water purification system and about Traffic Rules. Their teachers said that they wanted these children to feel themselves on a par with others and such a science exhibition boosts their spirit and improves their confidence levels.

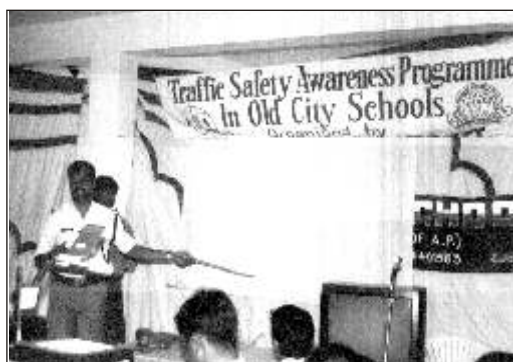
Sixth Annual Low-Cost Science Exhibition

Like in the previous years, the Sixth Annual Low-cost Science Exhibition held on 5th & 6th February 2005 showcased the creativity and talent of the

students of the old city of Hyderabad. Apart from the students of regular schools, students from the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Centres and Special Schools for the differently abled also participated in this Science Exhibition.

A total number of 200 exhibits were showcased, In all, 400 students participated and 10,000 students visited.

The membership of regular schools in COVA rose to 90 this year. It is with the students of these schools that COVA works through creating project works for them and conducting competitions and various other activities.



Projects/Competitions for School Children

Literary competitions and awareness lectures were facilitated for school children on Nutrition and Health in collaboration with National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad.

NIN conducted competitions among 30 schools in Project Work for school children on Food and Nutrition. The Traffic Commandoes Project was implemented in 30 schools, covering more than 700 students, in collaboration with the Traffic Police, Hyderabad to inculcate civic sense among children.

Exposure for Awareness

About 5000 Children from 50 member schools were mobilized to witness a cricket match between the students of India and Pakistan held in Hyderabad.

About 1000 students from 10 schools participated in the Hyderabad 10K Run and 100 students from one school participated in the Environment Run.

In Joint Celebration of Raksha Bandhan and Eid Milap 200 children from different communities came together to take part in each of these celebrations.

Orientation programs were organised for 50 teachers on Peace Education and Disaster Management in collaboration with Coalition for Peace and Harmony, and National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad, respectively.

Para Education Package

A Para Education Package was offered to the member schools. The package included training children in literary and cultural activities like essay writing, debate and elocution, theatre arts, drawing and painting, dance and physical education. Number of schools and students covered under the package are 25 and 750 respectively.

Working with Communities

A Polio Check up camp was facilitated in collaboration with Asha Rotary Centre and

free crutches were distributed among 50 polio-affected children.

Community Education Centres

Ten community education centres were started during the year for 260 drop-out children in collaboration with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), in the Old City of Hyderabad. The teachers were trained in developing English Foundation course by Prof. Jacob Tharu and team from Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (CIEFL), Hyderabad.

Play Schools

Fifteen Play Schools were facilitated this year with a strength of 250 children. An evaluation of these Play Schools was carried out by the UNICEF to explore the possibility of attaching them to Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.

Childline

As support organisation for Childline, COVA has dealt with 123 cases of missing, destitute or street children, out of whom 55 were enrolled in shelter homes, 35 were repatriated to their parents, medical help was provided for three and educational sponsorship for 29.

Childline volunteers conducted outreach programs on Childline services and 1098 helpline in Hyderabad City South Zone reaching out to school children, women and SHG members, shopkeepers and businessmen, drop-out children and college students.

Over the year, 12 Open Houses were organised with women's groups, in which the cases in the respective localities were highlighted and through role plays message was driven home to the audience on local intervention in child rescue and followup.

Year of Scientific Awareness 2004 (YSA) Programs

To inculcate scientific awareness among children, youth and general public, COVA has taken up various activities as part of the Year of Scientific Awareness programs in collaboration with the National Council for Science and Technology and Andhra Pradesh Council for Science and Technology.



COVA, as a nodal agency, implemented these programs in fourteen other districts of Andhra Pradesh. In Hyderabad, awareness lectures were organised for general public and students and teachers on various topics of scientific importance like Disaster Management, Nutrition, and Environmental issues. Science Exhibitions were facilitated for school children and a Science Fair was organised at the District Level. Competitions were held for school children in essay writing, elocution and quiz on issues related to science. These theme-based competitions were conducted in 12 mandals in Hyderabad district, in which 4000 students from 500 schools participated.

For details of programs implemented in the Districts, please see the section on Districts Networks.





Economic Empowerment Program for Women (Thrift and Credit)

ROSHAN VIKAS

New Pinch!

Like in any other basti, men and women in Kanchan Bagh are often desperate for small loans. As such, the local moneylender's high interest rates don't deter them. They realise the pain when their hard earned money goes towards interest into the moneylender's pocket. Again when they need money they are reluctant to recollect the pain of repayment. The reality of pain does not ensure an immediate search for a solution. It needed long and consistent persuasion by the Roshan Vikas team for a group of women at Kanchan Bagh to form a Self-Help Group Intaiqad Mahila Mandali. The effect was almost immediate. They stopped borrowing from the moneylender. What a pinch for him! For him, there was more to come. With a live model amidst them, other women formed 12 more groups in the area and became members of Roshan Vikas!

It became a perfect case study in the economic empowerment of women, when the frustrated moneylender felt the pinch of the last straw, landed at one of the meetings of the first group and hurled abuses at the members. The group members were amused at the abuses. The moneylender's behaviour convinced them that they had chosen the right path.

About 4000 women, members of Roshan Vikas Mutually-Aided Cooperative Thrift Society, have been instrumental in helping to initiate other programs as well, whether it is riot prevention or campaign on rights.



Roshan Vikas has increased its membership to 193 SHGs this year. The accounts of Roshan Vikas have been fully computerized with the assistance from BASIX, making the accounting procedures easier to manage.

The cooperative has generated a surplus of Rs. 1,66,604.64 after paying a dividend of 12 % (Rs. 1,34,277.65) on the thrift deposits.

Consumer Cooperative

Roshan Vikas has been making efforts to launch a Consumer Cooperative to supply essential commodities at cheaper rates and on credit, initially to its members. Some members of Roshan Vikas visited other such cooperatives in Nizamabad district (facilitated by BASIX) and Raichur, Karnataka (facilitated by Samuha) to study those models.

A survey was conducted in the city as well as in the nearby districts on commodities like grains and pulses to identify cheaper wholesale markets. A purchasing committee was formed and 25 agents in the bastis for the cooperative were identified.

Study on Livelihoods

In order to explore the possibility of assisting the members in pursuing livelihood opportunities, a study was undertaken on the skills possessed by the members of Roshan Vikas in trades like bangle making, zardozi, and agarbathi making.

Welfare Programs for Members

Roshan Vikas issued 11 scholarships worth Rs. 31,000 for the education of the members' children. It is looking for a suitable insurance scheme for its members.

Health Awareness Activities

Roshan Vikas facilitated AIDS awareness camps in 20 bastis in collaboration with Divya Disha, 3 General Health Camps and 2 Eye Camps in collaboration with other departments of COVA.

Trained by a doctor from Mahavir DOT Centre on TB awareness, Roshan Vikas Directors, Play School teachers and Roshan Vikas staff members conducted 25 awareness sessions on TB in the bastis. Two adult literacy centres have been set up this year.

International Women's Day Celebrations

On the occasion of International Women's Day, COVA organised a 2-day event, on March 2-3, 2005, involving 450 SHG leaders from eight districts and 1000 women from the Old City of Hyderabad.

On 2nd March 2005, Public meetings were organised in 16 bastis in the old city of Hyderabad. SHG leaders from each district participated in the meetings at two areas and interacted with SHG members in the area and shared their experiences.

Next day, a daylong convention brought together about 450 women from eight districts and 1000 women from the Old City of Hyderabad. The convention was a combination of serious discussions as well as cultural events revolving around the themes of Communalism and Women, HIV-AIDS and Women, and Violence against Women.

The convention was meant to facilitate networking of COVA with other women's organisations in the State for building solidarity among them.

The delegates passed action-oriented resolutions on the three themes.

Training Programs

Two training programs were conducted for new SHG leaders on Principles of Co-operation, Business rules of SHGs and Co-operatives, Accounting Principles, Bookkeeping and Maintaining records.



Economic Empowerment Program for Women (Entrepreneurship Development)

MAHILA SANATKAR

Mahila Sanatkar Mutually-Aided Cooperative Society has taken specific measures this year to become economically and organizationally independent from COVA in a period of three years. Several capacity building and orientation programs were organised over the year for Directors,



senior members and junior members. Long-term Skill Upgradation Programs were conducted for the artisans to venture into the production of new handicraft items and to improve the quality of production.

Mahila Sanatkar has also made its mark at international, national levels as well as local level this year through participation in several exhibitions. An important outcome of this participation was the exposure of the artisans to the market and to the quality and range of the products of other manufacturers.

Munawwar Fatima, a senior member and Director of Mahila Sanatkar has been practicing crochet for a long time and she is a skilled artisan.

When Mahila Sanatkar requested her to prepare a table cover in crochet, which is



a new item, she hesitated to take up this work. After participating in the Directors' Capacity Building Program at Shilparamam and watching the products displayed at the Crafts Village there, she expressed her willingness to take up this new work. And she completed it successfully.

A two-day training workshop was also conducted for the Directors on Report Writing.

Taking the Road to Rome

Mahila Sanatkar exhibited its products at Namastey India 2004, a 10-day handicrafts exhibition in Rome, Italy, organised by the Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IICCI) in collaboration with Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FAPCCI).

Other Exhibitions

Mahila Sanatkar participated in several Handicrafts' Exhibitions in Nagpur, Mumbai, Mysore and in the twin cities of Hyderabad. The artisans of Mahila Sanatkar exhibited and sold their products on the premises of corporate houses like GE and Satyam Computers.

Visit of the Parliamentary Committee on Labour

The Parliamentary Committee on Labour, comprising 16 Members of Parliament, visited Mahila Sanatkar and interacted with the artisans and appreciated the enterprise.

New Prototypes, New Work Culture

A sustained, long-term skill upgradation program was facilitated for Mahila Sanatkar artisans by Ms Aditi Shah from National Institute of Design. Four crafts - zardozi, hand embroidery, crochet and stitching - were identified for special focus. Design

workshops were organised for the artisans and new prototypes were developed.

A public exposition was held at COVA Resource Centre on 16th February 2005 of the prototypes of zardozi and hand embroidery products developed at these workshops.

Programs sponsored by Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, New Delhi:

1. Zardozi skill upgradation training.
2. Design workshops in Zardozi & Hand Embroidery.
3. Exhibition at Mumbai & Bangalore.
4. Grant of cluster manager's salary for six months.

Other Programs

- ❖ Mahila Sanatkar members collaborated with Roshan Vikas and other departments in organising the two-day International Women's Day Celebrations 2005.
- ❖ Mahila Sanatkar facilitated two adult literacy centers in collaboration with Roshan Vikas. A total of 60 students enrolled with two adult literacy centers which provide adult education round the year.
- ❖ Working capital raised from DCH & Canara Bank.
- ❖ Canara Bank released a grant of Rs.50,000 for purchasing machines.

Family Counseling and Reconciliation Cell

During 2004-2005, 109 cases were registered with the Family Counseling and Reconciliation Cell. Reconciliation was realized in 68 of them. Counseling was given in 16 cases. Two of the cases were forwarded to the police station and four to Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat). Four cases ended in divorce. In eight cases no response was received from the parties. Seven cases are still under process.



YOUTH TRAC

During 2004-2005, Youth TRAC (Youth Training Resource and Activity Center) has taken up several innovative activities to sensitise college and university students, youth from gyms, and youth associations in bastis, as well as professionals from corporate houses.

Summer Camp 2004

For bringing youth and children of different communities onto a single platform, COVA has been facilitating summer camps in the old city of Hyderabad. Youth and children in the old city also find meaningful occupation during their vacations in these summer camps. This year, Youth TRAC facilitated 20 summer camps as part of Summer Camp 2004, for a consecutive 14th year. Through this camp, Youth TRAC attempted to promote communal harmony supporting various sports and cultural activities and vocational training sessions organized by youth clubs, cultural associations and other social groups. In addition to these, awareness programs were also conducted on issues like communal harmony, traffic safety, nutrition, health and hygiene, pollution, water harvesting, discipline and personality development. In all, 2000 children and youth participated in the summer camps.

College Discussion Groups

Discussion Groups for college students were facilitated in nine colleges including St. Ann's College for Women and in University of Hyderabad. The other colleges are: Sarada Maha Vidyalyaya, City College, Government

Girls' Degree and PG College, Hussaini Alam MESCO College, Government Junior College, Mukarram Jah College and Signodia Degree College. Youth TRAC organised lectures and plays for the members of these groups to sensitize them on issues of communalism, social and gender justice, environment etc. Some of the members participated in a training program facilitated by Youth TRAC on Team Building, Trust Building and Self-Understanding.



Praful Bidwai, Hansan Kamal, Javeed Anand, Wilfred Karuna Ratne (a recipient of the Right Livelihood Award from Sri Lanka), Javed Akhtar, all noted social activists, and Baron Jakob von Uexull, Chairman, Right Livelihood Foundation, Dr. R.K. Chadha from NGRI, Dr. Raghunatha Rao from NIN, Dr. Prasanna Kumar from National Green Corps, Prof. Pervez Hoodbhoy, renowned Pakistani Nuclear Scientist and Peace Activist were some of the prominent people who addressed the students on various issues of social and scientific importance.

Linkages with Gyms

Now a days, youth all over have become health and personality conscious and so many youth are attracted to gyms. Gyms have become major meeting points for many energetic youth.

COVA decided to tap this energy and made linkages with gyms. So far, COVA conducted two career guidance programs for them in collaboration with Satyam Computers and awareness sessions on communal harmony. Some of them enrolled with COVA as volunteers.



Participation in Capacity and Perspective Building Programs

Youth for Change, a program of Youth TRAC, COVA, organized a training program for college students and volunteers on Team Building, Trust Building and Self-

Understanding in Hyderabad. Youth volunteers and college students benefited from this program.

Three members from Youth TRAC participated in a week-long workshop in Mumbai on Communalism, organised by Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer.

Communal Harmony Programs

Youth TRAC and Children's Department facilitated various programs directly meant to promote communal harmony among the communities in the old city of Hyderabad. These programs included riot prevention measures, joint celebration of festivals, organising lectures by eminent personalities, performing plays on communal harmony on various occasions including the *Ganesh Chaturdhi* celebrations and voluntary service to the devotees during the Ganesh immersion procession.

For details please refer to the chapter on Peace Initiatives.

Career Guidance Programs

An important landmark in Youth TRAC programs during 2004-2005 was the linkage established with Satyam Foundation.

Apart from the career guidance sessions with gym-going youth, Satyam Foundation, an affiliate of Satyam Computers, in collaboration with Youth TRAC-COVA, invited applications from the youth of the old city of Hyderabad for career training in IT sector. Written tests were conducted for the applicants, based on which the candidates were selected for training for various careers in IT sector.

Youth TRAC also sponsored eligible candidates for various vocational training courses in DATAR Vocational Junior College, Hyderabad.



Koshish Theatre Group

Koshish performed plays depicting messages of communal harmony, national integration and peace in the *Ganesh Mandaps* at various bastis of the old city of Hyderabad in association with the basti leaders and youth associations. The performances evoked enthusiastic response from the audience.

The child artistes of Koshish Theatre Group participated in national and international Theatre Festivals. The team was also invited to perform at national institutions in Hyderabad like IICT, NIN, IIIT and National Police Academy, by NGOs and NGO networks and educational institutions.



To promote theatre arts and a sense of social responsibility in theatre, Koshish organized

a Theatre Festival. More than 30 teams from across Hyderabad participated in the inter-school and inter-collegiate competitions. During this year, Koshish conducted training sessions in 12 schools. Koshish Theatre Group gave 60 performances.

Play for Peace

Play for Peace is a unique concept developed in USA to bring together children from conflicting communities for participation in non-competitive games that promote a spirit of co-operation, and foster understanding and friendship among them.

Play for Peace India and COVA collaborated to initiate the program in the old city of Hyderabad. Play sessions are conducted by trained Youth Facilitators in sensitive areas and in schools.

Play for Peace Youth Facilitators conducted 1120 play sessions in schools and communities this year.

Bal Mela 2005

Play for Peace organized a Bal Mela. Apart from 450 children from 18 schools and 5 communities, students from colleges, and others participated in the Bal Mela.

The Mela aimed at providing opportunities to children to understand one another's culture through a variety of events.

Project "Looking in Reaching Out" (LIRO)

The project "Looking in Reaching Out" (LIRO), was designed for youth volunteers and students of schools in the old city of Hyderabad. Many workshops and training programs were organised from February 2004 to March 2005 to train volunteers to work with children using artistic mediums to facilitate expression (feelings and emotions). Also aimed at personal and

Discovering oneself

During her school days, Shahana used to be very shy and needed to be escorted to school and back by someone in the family. Attending a three-day training programme in 1999 organized by COVA in her basti on health transformed her life. She first enrolled as a member of Koshish Theatre Group and later on switched over to Play for Peace. Little did the 20-year-old Shahana realize that her association with social work would enable her to travel by air to Andaman and Nicobar islands as a Play for Peace trainer. During the course of her career as a Play for Peace trainer, she traveled to Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad, Mount Abu, Rayagadh and Kulu and Manali.



Shahana

Her mother works in bangle-making unit while her father is an auto-rickshaw driver. One of her three brothers works in a Zari unit. The family lives in a mud-walled and tin-roofed hutment in Mecca Masjid Camp in the old city of Hyderabad. The girl, whose primary goal was to become a bank employee, redefined her goal and looking forward to becoming a good trainer or a social worker. Besides her association with the Play for Peace, a collaborative program of COVA, she is pursuing her B.A degree.

Working with and for communities, asserts Shahana, made her self-confident and helped her overcome her self-consciousness. It was a six-year journey for her to realise her potential and become a dynamic young girl.

professional development of the young. It helped the young to build approaches, skills and qualities, which young people employ to teach, facilitate and lead arts-based play sessions with groups of children. Youth Facilitators started conducting sessions in schools from August 2005.

The youth volunteers are guiding the students of these schools in organising events like dances, songs, and skits / plays / mimes, etc. during the respective school Annual Day Celebrations or any other event.

Ms Neha, a film maker, video-documented various workshops / training programs / sessions organised since February 2004.



Dosti-2005

Youth TRAC actively collaborated with 'Friends of Iran Society' in organising Dosti-2005, the Inter-collegiate Literary Competitions on the occasion of the bi-decennial celebration of the society and the 26th anniversary of the victory of Iranian Revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeini.



DISTRICT NETWORK PROGRAM



Building Capacities

The Coordinators of Hyderabad City Programs of COVA and District and State Coordinators from eight districts and four states were trained on Resource Mobilisation, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Report Writing. The State and District Coordinators, who were trained in these programs, have become resource persons on these issues for the member organisations of networks in their respective States and Districts.



The member organisations of eight district networks were given training on Report Writing. They were given inputs on the best practices of report writing to ensure accountability and enhancing credibility of the organisation.

In nine districts of Andhra Pradesh, where COVA promoted its networks, there had been very few Muslim women's SHGs. Hence, 27 community organizers (COs), 3 from each of the 9 districts, were appointed and trained on formation/strengthening of SHGs and Federating SHGs with the help of two training programs.

By December 2004, 655 SHGs were formed with a total of 6343 members. They also worked for strengthening the old groups. A 2-day training program was conducted for leaders of the newly formed groups on the concept of SHGs and their management.

Programs for Children - Summer Camps
Summer Camps were organised in nine Districts of Andhra Pradesh, to promote communal harmony among children of various communities through sports, games and awareness programs. In all, 3490 children participated in 64 camps conducted in various mandals and villages of nine districts.

Joint Programs and Campaigns



Year of Scientific Awareness-2004 Programs

In collaboration with the National Council for Science and Technology and Andhra Pradesh State Council for Science and Technology, member organisations of COVA in nine districts and organisations in five other districts organised various programs to promote scientific awareness among children, youth and general public. A total of 759 programmes were conducted with the participation of about 64,849 people in them.



ILO Campaign against Child Labour

To implement the newly-defined strategies of ILO to eradicate child labour in India, the member organisations of COVA in Guntur district were given opportunity to form mandal level core committees with the participation of voluntary organisations there. Most of the member organisations were involved in this campaign.

Anti-War Assembly

District Coordinators and members of COVA district networks, participated in the Anti-War Assembly held in Hyderabad on December 17-19, 2004 to express solidarity and resolve of Indians who are committed to secularism, democracy and peace. Several leading anti-war activists from other countries took part in the Assembly.

For more details please refer to Peace Initiatives.

Meeting on "Protection of Child Rights"

A meeting on "Protection of Child Rights", held on 4th November 2004 by the World Vision and COVA Nellore district network NOVA, favoured a forum to protect child rights. It was floated with NGO leaders, District Coordinator and Assistant Labour Commissioner as members.

Submitting recommendations for elimination of child labour to the District Collector, it identified six child labourers and got them admitted to school. A rally and public meeting were organised on the occasion of Child Rights Day.

Celebration of International Women's Day

On 2nd March 2005, Public meetings were organised in 16 bastis in the old city of Hyderabad. SHG leaders from each district participated in the meetings at two areas and interacted with SHG members in the area and shared their experiences.

Next day, a daylong convention brought together about 450 women from eight districts and 1000 women from the Old City of Hyderabad.

Please refer to Roshan Vikas section of this report for details.

Mission for Marginalised and Minorities, Anantapur, conducted a one-day seminar on Women's Issues and Communal Harmony, at Anantapur, on 8th March in which about 1000 women participated and discussed issues of minority women's empowerment, government programs for minorities, and communal harmony.

The district coordinators provided the member organisations with linkages with Government and other donor agencies facilitating fundraising.



WELFARE TRUSTS IN DISTRICTS

All religions encourage charity. Some give out of religious sentiments and others out of humanitarian and secular considerations. COVA felt that these funds, if managed by a credible institution (charitable and welfare trusts), could be utilized for empowerment of marginalized sections. Apart from donating for health and education purposes, the objective of these trusts should be to encourage entrepreneurship among these communities.

As part of a process to form Welfare Trusts in four districts – Guntur, Kurnool, Warangal and Kadapa of Andhra Pradesh – meetings were held with businessmen, religious leaders and prominent persons.

In Guntur and Kurnool, the meetings yielded some results and the trusts were formed: AMOL Welfare and Charitable Trust in Guntur, and United Welfare and Charitable Trust in Kurnool.

In Kadapa, COVA decided to have ties with Al Imdad Society and Islamic Welfare Society, which have been involved in charity. COVA was successful in making them broaden their objectives and extend benefits to members of communities other than the Muslim community and also provide interest-free loans to small entrepreneurs in their criteria to select beneficiaries and allocate 10-20% of their funds for this purpose.

Beneficiaries

The Trust in Guntur collected Rs 81,000 and

disbursed it among 95 people to help them start petty businesses, while the Trust in Kurnool collected Rs 90,000 and loaned it to 70 persons for the same purpose. Moreover, it is rotating funds recovering loans from beneficiaries.

The long-standing Welfare Trusts in Kadapa allocated Rs 2,70,000 (Islamic Society) and Rs 76,000 (United Welfare and Charitable Trust) for entrepreneurship development, which is a portion of their relatively larger collections. Significantly, they agreed to make very high contributions to Tsunami relief work.

Involvement of Muslim religious leaders in trusts at Kadapa and Kurnool has influenced the giving pattern of Muslim community in their operational areas and we can expect a shift from mere charity in vogue to philanthropy for empowerment.

As representatives decided to form a state-level network to share their experiences and to collaborate with one another in possible areas, they conducted two well-attended meetings at Hyderabad and Kurnool.

Structure of the Trusts

Each trust has a Trust Committee and a Managing Committee with well-defined roles: contributing money to trust, taking initiative in mobilisation of funds, evolving strategies to take trusts forward, and to run the administration. The Managing Committee identifies beneficiaries, monitor their activities and ensure regular repayment of loans.



NATIONAL NETWORKING

Since the year 2000, COVA has been establishing linkages in different States with the objective of forming networks to promote communal harmony in these States. COVA was able to facilitate the coming together of different organizations for addressing the issue of communalism in the states of Gujarat, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir and organized some capacity and perspective building programs.

SAVAN, Saharanpur

SAVAN (Saharanpur Voluntary Action Network) is the name selected by the network at Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. After establishment of the network and constitution of the Ad Hoc Committee, the network organized a number of activities and programs. The major programs are mentioned below:

A campaign was organised for promoting communal tolerance, understanding and harmony by organising meetings at various places. A perspective-building program on communal harmony was organized for member organisations. A two-day seminar on 'Communalism a reality' and 'Combating communalism' was organized.

A program was organized to promote communal harmony and social understanding through literary works and awards. Two seminars were organised, one on 'Globalization and its impact on education, health and employment' and the other on 'The Role of Theatre in Social Movements'.

A voter-awareness campaign was carried out by the network in April-May prior to Lok Sabha polls in Saharanpur.

The member organisations were trained on maintenance of accounts and book keeping, on community development schemes and procedures for applying for funds from different agencies. They were also trained in project planning and preparation of logical frameworks.

VAN-Kashmir

Van-Kashmir, a network of 35 organisation working in the six districts of the Kashmir Valley, organised training programs for member organisations on Accounts / auditing and FCRA, on project planning, report writing and log frame preparation and on solid waste management.

Utilising data provided by Van-Kashmir on government schemes/programs, six member organisations could participate in a handicrafts expo at Mumbai. The member organisations were helped in fundraising.

Two major initiatives that have been started by Van-Kashmir network were the identification of organisations to secure FCRA permission from the Government of India and repatriation and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pundits in the Kashmir Valley. Credible organisations with good track record are being identified in the state of Jammu & Kashmir to enable them to apply for FCRA permission with the expectation that the inflow of additional resources for development would mitigate the situation

in the valley. Van-Kashmir is also collaborating with some organisations in Jammu engaged in facilitating the repatriation of Kashmiri Pundits to the valley. So far, about 2000 Kashmiri Pundit families have registered for repatriation and the government has initiated the process of constructing safe colonies for them in the valley.

VAN-Jammu

VAN-Jammu held training programs on Accounts & Audit, on Planning and log frames and a perspective building program on Facts against Myths: For promotion of communal harmony (with Dr. Ram Punyani as the resource person), in the region.

MASSDEV-Kolkata

MASSDEV has tie-ups with West Bengal Social Welfare Board and Credit Watch, a provider of training for NGOs on micro finance, PIPFPD Kolkata Chapter and with many well-established organisations. It is hopeful of having a series of dialogues with the National Campaign for Right to Information, Kolkata Chapter for the benefit of its member organizations and the beneficiaries.

Seven member organizations got small grants (Rs.10,000 each) from Central Social Welfare Board for implementing Awareness Generation Programme for Women.

Supported by COVA, MASSDEV is now capable of training member organisations on report writing, fundraising, SHG promotion, and training tools.

A two-day training workshop on network formation and initiation and strengthening of SHGs (Self Help Groups) was organized for the network members in June 2004.

Gujarat

During 2003-04, COVA facilitated formation and strengthening of first Muslim women's group in Godhra and established linkages with Muslim bodies and Christian and Hindu educational groups for the benefit of Muslim community and also as a measure of confidence building exercise.

The other purpose is to train volunteers of riot relief camps on the principles and practices of activism. For various reasons a network could not be initiated as yet in Gujarat.





RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

Study on Socio-economic Conditions of the Muslim Community in Andhra Pradesh:

COVA was involved in the ongoing research project on Socio-economic Conditions of the Muslim Community in Andhra Pradesh. Anantapur was selected as the first district for the fieldwork to collect data. By October 2004 the study report was ready on Anantpur district and is awaiting publication.

Collecting and feeding data to establish a data bank is also progressing well. The information regarding the latest religious distribution of population, released by the Government of India through census department in the month of September 2004, was also collected and analysed. All the related data in newspapers and journals has also been collected and added to the database.

By the end of the reporting year, the data collection on Nizamabad district has been completed and the report is getting ready.

Study on Social Justice Philanthropy
COVA is participating in an International Study on Philanthropic Practices of the Muslim Community. The objective of this study is to understand the philanthropic behaviour of the Muslim community and promote the practice of philanthropy for social justice. The Study is being conducted in Indonesia, Turkey, Egypt, United Kingdom, Tanzania and India. COVA is coordinating the study in India.

Two districts each in the States of Kerala, West Bengal, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh were selected and household and institutional surveys were conducted.

The final report is expected to be ready by September 2005.

Study on Peace Initiatives

COVA has taken up the project of documenting the past and present peace initiatives in Hyderabad region. This project is supported by Aman Charitable Trust, New Delhi as part of a larger project to study peace initiatives in certain conflict-ridden regions in South Asia. A systematic documentation of such initiatives and related contemporary social dynamics was the purpose of this project. The study is expected to be concluded by August 2005.

Participation in Seminars

Irfan Basha, research associate, presented a paper on 'The Status of Minorities in India' at a seminar organised by the Lahore Chapter of 'Pakistan-India People for Peace and Democracy' (PIPFPD) at Lahore, Pakistan in the first week of September 2004, and participated in the deliberations on "The status of minorities in India and Pakistan". The paper received much acclaim in the conference. He also gave interviews to the news and media reporters of Pakistan, and held discussions with the PIPFPD delegates of Pakistan and media persons about the social and religious reforms, minorities' rights, and educational aspects in India and Pakistan.



COVA

Governing Body

1. Dr. Vithal Rajan - Chairman
2. Dr. Ananad Raj Verma - Co-Chair

Members

3. Mr. P. M. Amir Sultan (Pune)
4. Dr. Mazher Hussain
5. Mr. Ali Asghar
6. Ms. Asiya Khatoon
7. Ms. Jandhyala Kameshwari (Delhi)
8. Mr. Mohd. Azam Khan
9. Mr. John B. Frank
10. Ms. Akhileshwari
11. Ms. Annie Namala
12. Ms. Haseena Hashia (Jammu and Kashmir)
13. Ms. Vijay Lakshmi Das (Ahmedabad)
14. Ms. Kulsum Ali Abbas

Community Composition

Muslims	50%
Other Communities	50%

Gender Composition

Female	50%
Male	50%

Managing Committee

1. Ms. J. Kameshwari - President
2. Mr. Neelkanth Mansabdar - Vice President
3. Mr. Ali Asghar - Executive Secretary
4. Ms. Ammaji - Joint Secretary
5. Ms. Naheed Banu - Treasurer
6. Dr. Ananad Raj Verma - Member
7. Mr. Nanak Singh Nishter - Member
8. Mr. Md. Azam Khan - Member
9. Mr. Sajid Ali - Member
10. Mr. Roshan Kumar - Member
11. Mr. Khasim Peera - Member
12. Ms. Rama Jyothi - Member
13. Ms. Bilquis - Member
14. Ms. Priya Kosalram - Member

Ex-Officio Members

15. Dr. Mazher Hussain
16. Ms. Asiya Khatoon
17. Ms. Noorjahan Siddiqui
18. Mr. Mohammad Turab
19. Mr. Naseer Siddiqui
20. Ms. Shobha Uttam
21. Mr. Mirza Hamid Baig
22. Mr. K. Ajay Kumar
23. Mr. Irfan Basha
24. Mr. D.R.P. Chandra Sekhar

Community Composition

Muslims	50%
Other Communities	50%

Gender Composition

Female	41%
Male	59%

COVA Partners

Funding Partners

Central Government
Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India
Sarva Siksha Abhiyan

State Government
AP Council for Science and Technology

Indian Partners
Aman Trust
BFI
Child Line
Friends of Women's World Bank
Mahita
Nirnaya

Foreign Partners

British High Commission
CAF
Centris and Community Foundation,
Cord Aid
Catholic Relief Services
CR Yates
Ford Foundation
Oxfam
Tides Foundation

Collaborating Institutes / Organisations

Asha Rotary Centre
AISF
Aman Vedika
Apna Watan
Awaaz
BASIX
Coalition For Peace And Harmony
CHATRI
CNDP
Credibility Alliance
Divya Disha
Disha Centre for Social Justice
Dharmavanth College
Discussion Group-Dhwani St. Ann's College for women
Discussion Group University of Hyderabad
DATAR Vocational Junior College
Dappu
Drama Club of Hyderabad
Forum For Better Hyderabad
Friends of Iran Society
Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chamber of
Commerce and Industry (FAPCCI)
Government PG and Degree College, Hussaini Alam
Govt. Junior College, Falaknuma
Hyderabad Traffic Police
Henry Martyn Institute
Hyderabad 10K Foundation
Kids For Tigers
Lok Satta
Mohammad Moinuddin Ghori Foundation
MESCO College
Muslims for Secular Democracy
National Institute of Nutrition
National Green Corps
NGRI
NAANDI Foundation
National Council for Science and Technology
National Centre for Advocacy Studies, Pune

PIFFPD
Satyam Foundation
SFI
St Ann's College for Women
Signodia College
Sharada Vidyalaya
Sutradhar School of Acting
UNICEF
World Wide Fund for Nature

COVA on Government Bodies

- ❖ Joint Machinery, Planning Commission, Government of India
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh State Level GO-NGO Coordination Committee
- ❖ Hospital Development Society, Osmania General Hospital
- ❖ District Advisory Committee for Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act
- ❖ District Executive Committee, AP Open School Society
- ❖ District Committee of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan
- ❖ Steering Committee for City Development Strategy, Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad
- ❖ Scouts and Guides, South Zone

COVA on National Bodies

National Committee, CNDP (Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace)
National Committee, PIPFPD (Pakistan India Peoples' Forum for Peace and Democracy)
Working Committee, VANI (Voluntary Action Network India)

Participation Abroad

September 2004, Pakistan Two representatives of COVA participated in the tenth anniversary celebrations of PIPFPD at Lahore, Pakistan
Netherlands : COVA representative participated in the Cord Aid Partners' Conference on Local Resource Mobilisation.
Turkey: COVA representative participated in a Conference on Philanthropy for Social Justice in Muslim Societies organised in Istanbul.
July 2004, Italy: Mahila Sanatkar representatives participated in Namastey India 2004 a handicrafts exhibition in Rome
June 2004, Egypt: COVA representative participated in a meeting on Philanthropy Study organised by EMAC Research and Training Center in Cairo.



ABRIDGED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2005

Amount in Rs.

Particulars	Current Fin Year		Prev. Fin Year	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Assets				
Fixed assets	14,50,707.50	58%	9,70,853.50	19%
Investments	nil		nil	
Loans disbursed	nil		nil	
Deposits and Advances	4,00,000	16%	30,60,000	59%
Current assets	5,98,969.49	24%	11,25,095.34	22%
Income and Expenditure A/c Balance	42,086	2%	nil	
Total	24,91,762	100%	51,55,948	100%
Liabilities				
Corpus / Endowment fund (s)	35,626	3%	44,677	1%
Earmarked Funds	nil		nil	
Loans / Borrowings	nil		nil	
Current liabilities and provisions	12,03,812.41	97%	41,75,095	98%
Income and Expenditure A/c Balance	nil		24,081	1%
Total	12,39,438.41	100%	42,43,85,334	100%

Note: Detailed audit reports are available on request.

ABRIDGED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2005

Amount in Rs.

Particulars	Current Fin Year		Prev. Fin Year	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Income				
Self generated income	66,907.08	0.53%	1,43,477	1.20%
Indian sources	24,10,280.44	19%	2,64,960	2.1%
International sources	1,01,83,873.42	80.47%	1,20,41,088	96.7%
Total	1,26,61,060.94	100%	1,24,49,525	100%
Expenditure				
Programme	1,16,52,361.63	75%	68,79,361	71%
Public Education for Fundraising	2,92,256	2%	2,09,019	2%
Management	35,77,400.06	23%	25,47,925.50	27%
Others	nil		nil	
Total	1,55,22,017.69	100%	97,36,305.50	100%
Deficit / Surplus	28,60,957		27,13,219.50	

Note: Detailed audited reports are available on request.

The formats used above comply with Credibility Alliance norms.